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MAJOR IMPROVEMENT MADE TO THE NATIONAL TRADE DATA BANK

A major improvement has been made to the Commerce Department's National Trade Data Bank with the new inclusion of detailed information on products, services and industries offered by local, regional, national and global companies. This valuable information is now available on STAT-USA/Internet through the NTDB Global Trade Directory, the Commerce Department announced today. Now STAT-USA/Internet users can join the nearly one million companies from over 165 countries already listed on this database.

STAT-USA has partnered with WAND, Inc., an international trade directory company based in Denver, Colorado, to offer this online business-to-business opportunity. Using WAND's precise indexing technology of 61,500 unique product and service types, buyers and sellers can easily find a partner who meets their specific requirements. When users register on the Directory, they will also be automatically added, in any of 16 languages, to all of the global directories within the WAND Network.

The Directory will be placed on STAT-USA's GLOBUS & NTDB Web page (<http://www.stat-usa.gov/ntdb>), along with the popular daily Trade Opportunities leads and thousands of international market reports already found on STAT-USA/Internet. Individuals will be able to conduct business transactions and perform detailed market analysis, all on STAT-USA/Internet.

"The release of this Directory marks a major improvement to the already rich content on STAT-USA/Internet," said Kay Melvin, director of STAT-USA. "This is the first in a series of steps to refurbish, update and improve the content on the site," Melvin continued.

Subscriptions to STAT-USA/Internet will now include access to the Directory, still for an all inclusive price of \$175 per year. STAT-USA and the NTDB Global Trade Directory are available for browsing at <http://www.stat-usa.gov>. For more information on the NTDB Global Trade Directory or to become a STAT-USA/Internet subscriber, call 1-800-STAT-USA or e-mail statmail@esa.doc.gov.

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